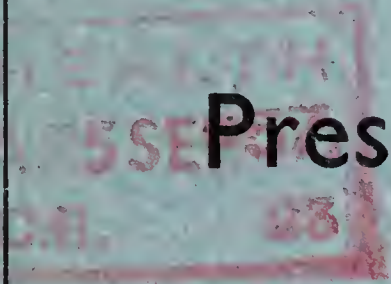


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# Preston Rural District Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1956





# Preston Rural District Council



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OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1956

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T. BAXTER, M.R.San.I.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Preston District Rural Council*

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1956, together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

Vital statistics related to England and Wales, no longer issued by the Registrar-General, have again been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, enabling a comparison with national figures to be made.

The estimated mid-year population of the Rural District was 39,380, an increase of 110 over that for the previous year, and this takes into account the population loss of 820 under The Preston (Extension) Order, 1956. The natural increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths), if institution deaths are ignored, was 121. The number of live births, viz, 558, was two short of the figure recorded in 1955. The crude birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population was reduced from 14.3 in 1955 to 14.2. Fortunately, there was a reduced mortality of 23 compared with the previous year, from 596 to 573, giving a crude rate equivalent to 14.6 per 1,000 estimated population. Altogether 136 deaths occurred in the Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals. Heart disease in all its forms continued as the major cause of death. There was an increase in deaths attributable to vascular lesions of the nervous system, but cancer deaths remained virtually at the same level. However, deaths from cancer of the lung affecting the male population rose by 55 per cent. There were 11 infant deaths, and the mortality rate fell from 21 in 1955 to 20, the lowest on record. All the infant deaths occurred under four weeks of age. No death was recorded from maternal causes. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system, at seven, have remained constant over the past three years, with an identical death-rate of 0.18 per 1,000 compared with 0.11 for England and Wales. Five of the deaths were related to inmates of the Whittingham Hospital. Since institution deaths have had to be accepted as belonging to the Rural District, all mortality rates, with the obvious exception of those rates related to infant and maternal mortality, have exceeded national figures. Other features of the vital statistics were reduced illegitimate live-births and stillbirths.

The Rural District was entirely free of smallpox, enteric fever, diphtheria and acute poliomyelitis during 1956. Unfortunately, the low incidence of scarlet fever and whooping cough recorded in 1955 was not maintained, and the number of notifications received reverted to normal. Measles was again in epidemic form, and the number of cases of dysentery rose appreciably by reason of an outbreak of sonne dysentery amongst school children in the Parish of Lea. Food poisoning was more prevalent but of little significance. Single cases comprised 83 per cent. of the total incidence. There was a decrease in the number of notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis.

Though I confine comment on housing conditions prevailing in the Rural District to the section of the report which presents housing statistics, there is a matter which was intentionally omitted so that reference could be made to it here. Although more owner-occupiers have shown an interest in the facilities available under the Housing Act, 1949, as amended, for grants to improve dwelling houses,



owners of tenanted properties show little enthusiasm, and in consequence the useful life of many houses which are structurally sound but lack essential amenities and services is not being prolonged. The improvement grants scheme has failed as far as tenanted property is concerned, either because landlords are not aware of the facilities available to them, or for the reason that they do not consider the scheme to be of financial advantage. It is difficult to foresee the effect of the new Rents Bill on this work, but one can only hope that the interest of landlords will be stimulated.

Since the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation, much has been said about their interpretation, but little, if anything, about the need to weld legal and technical opinion. Each has an important part to play, particularly when enforcement becomes necessary. Throughout the country experience is gradually being accumulated on the extent to which these regulations will improve hygiene standards in the food handling industry. Every local authority has problems peculiar to its district, and by now most have experience in overcoming difficulties on certain aspects of the regulations. It is important that this fund of knowledge should be used to ensure that everyone is kept fully aware of the trends both in the trade and in the courts where these regulations have been tested. With this in mind, it is the intention, early in the new year, to call a meeting of local public health inspectors so that knowledge and experience can be pooled. However, it still remains true that in the drive for clean, safe food, education of the individual is of paramount importance and public apathy is the greatest enemy.

The Council's officers engaged in the field of public health were called upon to perform multitudinous duties during the year, but it is necessary to repeat that certain aspects of the work received far less attention than was desirable, for once again there was a reduced inspectorate for a period. In addition, duties are created almost every year by the advent of new legislation. The most serious problem, however, is the disruption caused to such essential services as the removal of household refuse and the supply of water by the gross shortage of manual labour which has persisted since the war. The local office of the Ministry of Labour were on a number of occasions unable to assist, and on those occasions when men were sent, invariably they were found to be unreliable and lacking in the most modest content of commonsense. In short, they were unemployable. While it is not suggested that a complete breakdown is imminent, the efficiency of these services is being so impaired that a serious public health problem must inevitably arise.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence and support, and to pay tribute to the staff of the department for the manner in which they have carried out their duties. I am especially grateful to Mr. Young and Mr. Collier for their valuable collaboration, which greatly lightened my labours.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.



## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the year 1956

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on local meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1956.

In the year 1956 Preston had a dry spring and a very wet and cool summer. It has been an unusually thundery year which resulted in rather localised heavy rain. Indeed, reports from stations very near to Preston show a considerable difference on the total rainfall for the month of August. The rainfall measured at our station during this month was 12.39 inches. This was the highest total ever recorded in Preston for any one month since records started in 1876. As the average rainfall for the month of August in Preston is 4.11 inches, it means that in the year 1956 we had three times the average for that month. In spite of this wet month, the total for the year, 40.14 inches, was not very high, being only 2.62 inches higher than average. This was due to the fact that seven months of the year had a rainfall which was well below average.

Winter and spring were dry, while summer was very wet. The rainfall for the spring was 13.5% of the total rain for the year, while the summer months contributed 51.3% of the total rainfall. Indeed, the summer was the wettest ever recorded and even wetter than the one in 1954, when the rainfall was 17.84 inches, representing 33% of the total rainfall for that year.

In 1956 no droughts or dry spells were recorded in Preston. Two rain spells occurred from January 17th to January 31st and from December 3rd to December 18th. The number of rain-days was 214, an increase of 17 days on the average for the year. Only on 37 days was the ground flooded as compared with 30 days in the dry year of 1955, and with 132 days in 1954.

The driest month of the year was February. The total rainfall, 0.46 inch, was 2.0 inches less than average. February, 1956, was the driest February since 1934.

The wettest day of the year was August 1st, when 1.26 inches of rain fell.

The average temperature of the year was 0.9°F. below average. The months of June, July and August were colder than average. The temperature for August, for instance, was 4.6°F. lower than the average temperature for this month. On the other hand, the months of March, September and December were warmer than average.

February was once more the coldest month of the year and was 6.6°F. colder than average. For three days, on February 1st, 2nd and 23rd, the maximum temperature was below freezing, and the lowest maximum temperature recorded during the month was 27.8°F. The lowest minimum temperature of the year, 14.2°F., was recorded on February 2nd.

July, as usual, was the warmest month of the year, although in 1956 it was 1.1°F. cooler than average. The highest maximum temperature of the year, 74.8°F., was, however, reached on June 11th.

Ground frost occurred on 99 nights as compared with 114 nights in 1955. The lowest ground temperature recorded was 8.1°F. on February 2nd. Air frost was recorded on 61 days as against 88 days in 1955.

Winds were stronger than last year and we had 11 gales, as compared with three in 1955. No serious damage was, however, reported in the town.

The barometric pressure during the year was generally high.

### OTHER PHENOMENA

The year 1956 had less snow than 1955. Snow fell on 31 days as compared with 34 days in 1955, and only on five days snow was lying on the ground at the time of observation at 09.00 G.M.T. This was considerably less than the previous year, when snow was lying on the ground on 24 days. The depth of the snow was not very great, but we had a certain amount of drifting, particularly on December 26th.

Hail occurred on 17 days, five days more than the previous year, and thunder was heard on 22 days.

Visibility during the year was good on the whole. Fog at 09.00 G.M.T. was observed on 35 days, and on four days we had thick fog (visibility less than 44 yards). Abnormal visibility during the day was recorded on 23 occasions.

The Moor Park pond was frozen on 36 days, most of them in February.

Dry air (relative humidity less than 60%) at 09.00 G.M.T. was recorded on six days, two in April and four in May. The lowest relative humidity, 49%, was recorded on May 21st.

The optical phenomena observed during the year consisted of 34 solar and three lunar halos, 15 solar and 14 lunar coronae, and 11 rainbows, three of which were double rainbows.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1956 are summarised in the tables which follow :

### EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

	Highest Maximum				Lowest Minimum				Lowest Maximum				Highest Minimum			
	Temp.		Date		Temp.		Date		Temp.		Date		Temp.		Date	
Month	°F				F°				F°				°F			
January	51	...	21	...	27	...	25	...	32	...	31	...	44	...	4	
February	51	...	28	...	14	...	2	...	28	...	1	...	44	...	29	
March	62	...	26	...	28	...	14	...	39	...	15	...	45	...	25	
April	59	...	21	...	27	...	15	...	42	...	13	...	47	...	10	
May	71	...	27	...	32	...	19	...	52	...	18	...	51	...	8 & 30	
June	75	...	11	...	38	...	15	...	52	...	16	...	55	...	2	
July	72	...	8	...	43	...	11	...	56	...	30	...	59	...	26	
August	70	...	10	...	37	...	31	...	54	...	27	...	57	...	11	
September	73	...	22	...	33	...	1	...	58	...	15	...	61	...	23	
October	62	...	15	...	27	...	27	...	47	...	29	...	53	...	22	
November	55	...	9	...	23	...	23	...	37	...	23	...	49	...	26	
December	55	...	12	...	27	...	21	...	32	...	26	...	49	...	7	
<b>Year</b>	<b>74.8</b>		<b>11 June</b>		<b>14.2</b>		<b>2 Feb.</b>		<b>27.8</b>		<b>1 Feb.</b>		<b>61.3</b>		<b>23 Sept.</b>	



## RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall Inches		Difference from Average Inches		No. of Days				Wettest Days				Vapour Pressure in mbs.	Relative Humidity % satur.		
					Rain Days	Wet Days			Fall Inch.	Date						
January	...	4.17	...	+0.93	...	26	...	18	...	0.60	...	21	...	7.1	...	89.2
February	...	0.46	...	—2.00	...	13	...	6	...	0.09	...	4	...	5.4	...	85.1
March	...	1.23	...	—1.14	...	12	...	8	...	0.30	...	26	...	7.3	...	79.1
April	...	1.69	...	—0.41	...	14	...	10	...	0.33	...	12	...	7.5	...	74.8
May	...	2.00	...	—0.47	...	16	...	11	...	0.41	...	9	...	10.6	...	72.8
June	...	1.73	...	—0.94	...	18	...	10	...	0.45	...	27	...	12.0	...	79.2
July	...	4.63	...	+1.21	...	19	...	14	...	0.81	...	17	...	14.0	...	81.0
August	...	12.39	...	+8.28	...	24	...	23	...	1.26	...	1	...	12.8	...	84.8
September	...	3.56	...	+0.03	...	17	...	14	...	0.91	...	27	...	13.5	...	83.1
October	...	2.84	...	—1.02	...	15	...	11	...	0.80	...	19	...	10.2	...	85.0
November	...	1.74	...	—1.90	...	12	...	9	...	0.39	...	10	...	8.2	...	87.2
December	...	3.70	..	+0.05	...	28	...	20	...	0.70	...	22	...	8.5	...	89.4
Year	...	40.14	...	+2.62	...	214	...	154	...	1.26	...	1 Aug....	...	9.8	...	82.6

## VISIBILITY 09.00 G.M.T.

Month	Number of Days																			
	Dense Fog	Thick Fog	Fog		Mod. Fog	Mist or Haze	Poor Visi- bility	Mod. Visi- bility	Good Visi- bility	Very Good Vis.	Excel. Visi- bility									
January	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	5	...	5	...	8	...	3	...	1	...	6	...	0
February	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	7	...	2	...	5	...	6	...	0	...	7	...	0
March	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	13	...	13	...	1	...	1	...	0
April	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	4	...	10	...	8	...	0	...	6	...	2
May	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	5	...	13	...	6	...	5	...	0
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...	13	...	5	...	6	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	11	...	7	...	10	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	2	...	8	...	11	...	2	...	5	...	1
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	12	...	9	...	3	...	5	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	5	...	8	...	3	...	4	...	9	...	0
November	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	9	...	6	...	4	...	3	...	0
December	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	6	...	3	...	12	...	8	...	1	...	0	...	0
Year	...	0	...	4	...	5	...	26	...	30	...	97	...	104	...	34	...	63	...	3

## WEATHER

Month	Number of Days															
	Snow or Sleet	Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.	Hail	Thunder heard	Fog at 0900 G.M.T.	Gale Wind-force 8 or above	Ground Frost	Air Frost								
January	...	9	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	8	...	2	...	14	...	8
February	...	15	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	9	...	0	...	23	...	22
March	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	2	...	12	...	6
April	...	1	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	14	...	7
May	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	7	...	1
June	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	8	...	2	...	2	...	0	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	0	...	6	...	2
November	...	1	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	7	...	0	...	12	...	8
December	...	4	...	2	...	2	...	0	...	7	...	1	...	9	...	7
<b>Year</b>	...	<b>31</b>	...	<b>5</b>	...	<b>17</b>	...	<b>22</b>	...	<b>35</b>	...	<b>11</b>	...	<b>99</b>	...	<b>61</b>



## Physical Features of the Area

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and, together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.



West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the drift in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries," are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

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## General Statistics

### STATISTIC AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—49,758.
- (2) Population (Census 1951)—37,655.
- (3) Registrar-General estimate of home population, 1956—39,380.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1951)—10,334.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1956, according to Rate Books—11,753.
- (6) Rateable value, 1st April, 1956—£386,422.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,500 (1st April, 1956 estimated).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant, undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1956.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs, based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.



Golf courses are situate at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural District Council in practically all parishes.

There are 35 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

### POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1956, was 39,380, an increase of 110 compared with the estimate of 39,270 for the previous year, the population loss of 820 under The Preston (Extension) Order, 1956, having been deducted.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District, i.e., excess of births over deaths, did not materialise by reason of the fact that from the 1st January, 1954, all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted as belonging to the Rural District. In consequence, deaths exceeded births by 15. The number of persons per acre was 0.79, and the number of acres per person 1.26.

### VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD				LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (all causes)		STILL-BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			
												TOTAL		NEO-NATAL	
				No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births
Year ...	1956	...		558	*14.2	573	*14.6	14	24	—	—	11	20	11	20
Year ...	1955	...		560	14.3	596	15.2	16	28	—	—	12	21	9	16
	1954	...		480	12.4	574	14.8	5	10	—	—	12	25	7	15
	1953	...		541	14.1	546	14.2	15	27	—	—	20	37	16	30
	1952	...		485	12.6	401	10.4	12	24	—	—	11	23	9	19
	1951	...		498	12.7	473	12.0	10	20	—	—	12	24	11	22
Average 5 years : 1951 — 1955				—	13.2	—	13.3	—	22	—	—	—	26	—	20

\* Adjusted (live birth-rate ; comparability factor, 1.13) = 16.0 per 1,000  
(death-rate ; comparability factor, 0.83) = 12.1 per 1,000



## BIRTHS AND DEATHS

**LIVE BIRTHS.** The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year 1956 number 558 (males 280, females 278); two less than in the year 1955.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 14.2 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 14.3. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 16.0. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1956 was 15.7.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1956 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for each of the previous post-war years are also given :

Year	Males	Females	Total
1946	299	260	559
1947	319	311	630
1948	289	257	546
1949	281	299	580
1950	275	292	567
1951	260	238	498
1952	239	246	485
1953	270	271	541
1954	257	223	480
1955	282	278	560
1956	280	278	558

The excess of births over deaths in the Rural District in each of the 10 years, 1947-1956, is shown below.:

### EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

Year 1947	204	Year 1952	84
„ 1948	185	„ 1953	Nil
„ 1949	179	„ 1954	Nil
„ 1950	106	„ 1955	Nil
„ 1951	25	„ 1956	Nil

The figure for 1956 is in fact minus 15 for the reason stated on the previous page. However, if the deaths assignable to the Rural District from the Whittingham Hospital are deducted from the total deaths, the excess of births over deaths is 121, which, compared with the period 1950-52, is favourable. The figures for 1955, 1954, 1953 were 128, 83, 170.

**ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS.** The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1956 compared with that for each of the previous post-war years is shown overleaf :

Year	No. of illegitimate live births	Decrease or increase on previous year	Percentage of total live births
1946	23	-9	4.1
1947	17	-6	2.7
1948	25	+8	4.5
1949	19	-6	3.2
1950	8	-11	1.4
1951	16	+8	3.2
1952	13	-3	2.7
1953	12	-1	2.2
1954	5	-7	1.0
1955	16	+11	2.8
1956	10	-6	1.8

The number of illegitimate live births at ten was five below the average for the post-war years and six below the figure for the previous year. The tendency in the Administrative County as a whole during the post-war years has been one of continual decline. The above table shows that this is not true of the Rural District.

**STILLBIRTHS.** The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1956 was fourteen (seven males, seven females) or two less than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 24 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.35 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.37.

**DEATHS.** The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1956 numbered 573 (males 323, females 250). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution, irrespective of their home address.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a home population of 39,380, is 14.6 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 15.2. The average death-rate for the five years 1951-1955 was 13.3.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 12.1 per 1,000, as against last year's adjusted rate of 14.6.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1956 was 11.7 per 1,000 home population.

**PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.** Reference was made in the 1951 report to the adoption by the World Health Organisation of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death and the 1950 introduction by the Registrar-General of a new Short List of 36 Causes of Death. The absence



of any guidance from the Registrar-General as to the effect of the new classification on certain specific causes of death has left in doubt the validity of a comparison between mortality from such causes in the period prior to, and that in the period after, the revision. In certain instances, therefore, no attempt has been made in the following paragraphs to compare the mortality of the year under report with any year prior to 1950.

The relative importance of the principal causes of death is shown in the following table :

Cause of death	No. of deaths	1956	
			Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms) .....	205	.....	35.7
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	95	.....	16.5
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia) .....	80	.....	13.9
Violence (including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide) .....	34	.....	5.9
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza .....	32	.....	5.5
Other circulatory disease .....	25	.....	4.3
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....	8	.....	1.3

HEART DISEASES. From 1950 particulars of deaths from the various heart diseases have been sub-divided into three groups—"coronary disease, angina," "hypertension with heart disease," and "other heart disease." The deaths classified to these causes and assigned to the Rural District in 1956 and the preceding year, together with the equivalent mortality rates, are set out below :

Classification	No. of deaths		Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
Coronary disease, angina .....	62	66	1.57	1.67
Hypertension with heart disease .....	28	21	0.71	0.53
Other heart disease .....	134	118	3.41	2.99
Heart disease—all forms .....	224	205	5.70	5.20

The 205 fatalities from heart disease represented a decrease of 19 compared with the previous year, the resultant rate of 5.20 being 0.50 per 1,000 of population below that for 1955.

#### VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM

This condition, like heart disease and cancer, is one which principally affects older people. The 95 deaths ascribed to this condition in 1956 were 6 more than the number for the previous year, and were equivalent to a rate of 2.41 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with that of 2.26 for 1955 and 1.86 for 1954. They amounted to 16.5 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes.



## MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPIETIC TISSUES

This title embraces items 10–15 inclusive of the Short List of 36 Causes of Death as set out on Page 17. It is not exactly comparable with the general title of “cancer” used for statistics prior to 1950 by virtue of the inclusion in it of deaths from Hodgkin’s disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia, which were excluded from the latter title. The deaths from the constituent causes assigned to the Rural District in 1956 and the previous year are given below by sex :

Classification	1955			1956		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach .....	10	2	12	4	2	6
Lung, Bronchus .....	7	1	8	11	—	11
Breast .....	—	12	12	—	11	11
Uterus .....	—	8	8	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	16	25	41	29	20	49
Leukæmia, aleukæmia .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—all forms .....	34	48	82	44	36	80
	—	—	—	—	—	—

There was, therefore, a decrease in total deaths of two compared with 1955. The mortality rate produced by the 80 deaths in 1956 at 2.03 per 1,000 estimated home population represented a decrease of 0.05 per 1,000 over the previous year.

## VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General’s Short List of 36 Causes of Death—motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide, and homicide and operations of war. There were seven deaths from motor vehicle accidents, sixteen from all other accidents, eleven deaths from suicide, and none from homicide and operations of war. The deaths attributable to suicide were of the same total as the previous year, and the 22 deaths ascribed to this cause in the past two years is far more than the number recorded during the five-year period 1950-1954.

## PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

Thirty-two deaths were assigned to these causes—Pneumonia 15, Bronchitis 15, and Influenza 2. The number of deaths from Pneumonia declined by three, Bronchitis by two, and Influenza by two, compared with the previous year. Influenza is not normally a cause of heavy mortality.

## OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

Deaths in 1956 falling within this classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except the heart diseases mentioned earlier, numbered 25, an increase of three over the total for the previous year. The total of 25 deaths amounted to 4.3 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, and was equivalent to a rate of 0.63 per 1,000 of the estimated home population.

## TUBERCULOSIS—Respiratory

The deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1956 as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system numbered seven, the same as last year, and were equivalent to a

death-rate of 0.18 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The number of deaths and the death-rate have been identical for the past three years.

#### TUBERCULOSIS—Non-respiratory

There was one death during the period under review, equivalent to a mortality rate of 0.02 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the same as 1955 and 1954.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1956, distinguishing males and females, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950), subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	6	1
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	1	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	4	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	11	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	29	20
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia .....	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	1	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	51	44
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	47	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	10	11
20. Other heart disease .....	55	63
21. Other circulatory disease .....	10	15
22. Influenza .....	1	1
23. Pneumonia .....	9	6
24. Bronchitis .....	13	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	3	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	2	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .....	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	4	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	37	35
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	6	1
34. All other accidents .....	12	4
35. Suicide .....	7	4
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—
<b>ALL CAUSES .....</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>250</b>



## INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 11, males six, females live, one less than last year.

All the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 20, as compared with a rate of 21 in 1955 and 25 in 1954.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1956 was 23.8.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1956 of infants at stated age periods :

Causes of Death.	DAYS											MONTHS											Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12		
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Birth Injuries	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Totals	...	...	5	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Of the total deaths at all ages, infant deaths in 1956 formed 1.92 per cent.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY. Once again the Registrar-General has supplied particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age) assignable to the Rural area. According to the information received, the number of deaths of infants occurring under the age of four weeks and assignable to the Rural District in 1956 was eleven, this figure representing the total infant deaths. The resultant rate was 20 per 1,000 live births. In 1955 this rate was 16 and the number of deaths 9, amounting to 75 per cent. of all infant deaths.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths during 1956. Only five deaths have occurred from maternal causes during the past ten years.



## Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

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Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. Very little trouble was experienced in getting patients into hospital, and transport arrangements were generally good and expeditious. Disinfection of houses, books, clothes, etc., was always carried out in those cases where it was considered essential.

### SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox occurred during 1956; the twenty-seventh successive year for which the Rural District has been entirely free from the disease.

### SCARLET FEVER

Notifications of this disease during 1956 numbered 70, almost double the 37 cases which occurred in the previous year, but well below the high incidence of 156 recorded in 1952. The disease took its usual mild course and complications were the exception. Incidence was continuous and uniform throughout the year, with the exception of January and February, when there was a spate of cases. The distribution involved numerous parishes, but the principal areas affected were Farington and Penwortham. All cases with the exception of two were confined to children. The attack rate was 1.77 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with 0.94 per 1,000 for the previous year and 1.13 per 1,000 for 1954. Thirty-six cases were treated in hospital. Particulars of deaths registered as due to scarlet fever have not been provided by the Registrar-General since his adoption of the new Short List of Causes of Death in 1950, but an examination of the death returns, including inward transfers received by the Department during the year, revealed no such cause of death.

### DIPHTHERIA

For the sixth consecutive year, this disease has been absent from the Rural District, and there is no reason why this should not be a feature of future reports so long as parents see that their children are immunised.

### WHOOPING COUGH

The number of notified cases of Whooping Cough during 1956 was 79, compared with last year's record low of 10, which was regarded as a "freak" year. The annual average since the disease was made compulsory notifiable in 1940 is 54. Incidence was most prevalent in the fourth quarter of the year when 75 per cent. of the cases occurred. Though case distribution involved numerous parishes, the principal area affected was Penwortham. No one died from the disease, and only one person required hospital treatment.

### MEASLES

The period under review was epidemic, a continuation of the trend of 1955. Altogether 368 cases were notified, compared with 315 cases in the previous year, and 123 cases in 1954. Almost all the cases occurred in the fourth quarter of the year. Case distribution involved nearly all parishes, but incidence was highest in the urbanised parishes of Farington, Lea and Penwortham, and the rural area of Goosnargh. There was no death from this disease, and no one required hospital treatment.



## DYSENTERY

Incidence of this disease was high. 111 notifications were received ; 65 cases constituted an outbreak of sonne dysentery amongst school children in the parish of Lea, 24 cases occurred amongst inmates of Whittingham Hospital and the usual disease type was "Flexner," and of the remaining 22 cases, all occurring in private households, 19 were single cases and 3 were related to the members of a family residing in the parish of Farington. The infective organism in the cases confirmed bacteriologically was "Shigella Sonnei."

The outbreak of sonne dysentery amongst school children in the parish of Lea originated when three cases of suspected food poisoning were notified on the 12th March, 1956. Three children were involved, and immediate enquiries were made to determine the nature and source of the infection in order to prevent secondary spread and to limit primary spread. From the initial information obtained, it was clear that many more cases existed, and six of these were visited the same day. All the children concerned attended the Lea County Primary School in Greaves-town Lane, and information was obtained from the headmaster of other absentees, and the children attending school at the time were advised to stay at home if slight diarrhoea was experienced.

The chief clinical feature was severe diarrhoea with some stools containing blood and mucus. Vomiting was almost negligible. These features of the attack suggested dysentery rather than food poisoning, and confirmation was received on the 14th March from the Pathological Laboratory that "Shigella Sonnei" had been isolated in the faeces specimens submitted.

Altogether 100 persons were interviewed, sixty-five cases were confirmed, and 320 faeces specimens were obtained and submitted for examination, including specimens from white mice kept at the school. Searching inquiries at the school and local shops did not reveal a common food factor, and no specific food handler could be linked with the outbreak. However, six food handlers were temporarily excluded from work ; three were actually infected and three were contacts. General Practitioners concerned with the cases were kept fully informed of the faeces specimens' results, so that, despite the well-being of some of the patients, treatment continued until negative results were obtained. Although official notifications were still being received during the third week of April, they were all belated and the cases were known to the Department, and it can be truthfully stated that there was a quick collapse of the epidemic.

## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

It is pleasing to report that no case occurred in the Rural District during 1956.



NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1956 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital :

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)  
for the year ended 31st December, 1956, analysed by age**

Notifiable diseases	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever	70	1	2	4	7	7	41	6	1	1	—	
Whooping Cough	79	8	7	8	6	9	38	2	—	1	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—											
Paralytic	—											
Non-paralytic	—											
Measles (excluding rubella)	368	4	26	26	45	44	204	16	3	—	—	
Diphtheria	—											
Dysentery	111	2	4	6	3	3	48	8	1	36	—	
Meningococcal Infection	—											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—										...	
		0-	5	15	45	65 and over	Age unknown					
Acute Pneumonia (prim & infl'zal)	10	2	—	—	3	5	—					
Smallpox	—											
Acute Encephalitis Infective	—											
Post-infectious	—											
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—											
Paratyphoid Fevers	—											
Erysipelas	5	—	—	2	2	1	—					
Food Poisoning	18	3	6	7	2	—	—					
Tuberculosis Respiratory	15	1	—	10	4	—	—					
Meninges & C.N.S.	—											
Other	3	—	2	—	1	—	—					
Puerperal Pyrexia	—											

\* The death returns disclosed cases of pneumonia of which this Authority had no record before death.

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1956, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given :

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	2	...	...	...	7	..	3	...
Broughton ...	1	...	...	...	15	..	3	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Farington ...	21	19	6	1	86	...	3	...
Goosnargh ...	...	...	2	...	77	...	1	1
Grimsargh ...	4	3	...	...	14	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...
Hutton ...	1	...	...	...	4	...	1	...
Lea ...	4	...	66	...	53	...	1	...
Little Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...
Much Hoole ...	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	24	12	6	1	33	...	52	...
Ribchester ...	...	...	...	...	23	...	4	...
Samlesbury ...	1	...	1	...	6	...	8	...
Whittingham ...	2	2	25	25	23	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	9	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
1956 TOTAL ...	70	36	111	27	368	...	79	1
1955 TOTAL ...	37	22	32	20	315	4	10	...
1954 TOTAL ...	44	30	60	42	123	1	61	...
1953 TOTAL ...	82	48	168	163	389	5	130	1
1952 TOTAL ...	156	95	126	108	301	3	86	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board respectively.



A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1956, together with deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods.  Years	New Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	4	5	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	6	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	4	1	1	...	1	1	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
75 and upwards	1	..	..	...	1	..	...	...
Totals ...	17	12	2	1	6	1	1	...
	29		3		7		1	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1956	17	12	2	1	6	1	1	—
1955	20	16	4	5	6	1	1	—
1954	16	11	2	2	5	2	—	1
1953	31	15	3	2	5	8	—	—
1952	14	14	7	5	4	1	1	2
1951	13	8	5	4	4	3	1	2

The 32 new cases which were notified to the Department during the year could be classified as occurring amongst (1) permanent residents 18, (2) residents of Whittingham Hospital 8, (3) people transferred into the area 6.

Removals from the register numbered 24 ; 13 patients were transferred to other administrative areas, 8 patients died, and 3 recovered.



# National Assistance Act, 1948.

## Section 47

Number of applications made during the year under Sub-section 3 .....	Nil
Number of Orders made .....	Nil

### SCHOOLS

The total number of schools in the Rural Area is 35.

Periodical inspections were made during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

### NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1956, except where otherwise stated :

- Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed day).
- Housing Subsidies Act, 1956.
- Local Government Elections Act, 1956.
- Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.
- Family Allowances and National Insurance Act, 1956 (Appointed day).
- Medical Act, 1956 (1st January, 1957).
- National Insurance Act, 1956.
- Pensions (Increase) Act, 1956.
- Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956.
- Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956.
- Food Hygiene (Amendment) (No. 1) Regulations, 1956.
- Food Hygiene (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1956.
- The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956.
- The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1956.
- The Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956.
- Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, 1956.
- The Housing Subsidies Order, 1956.
- Housing (Form of Orders and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956.
- Housing (Payment for Well-Maintained Houses) Order, 1956.
- Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations, 1956.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Activity in the field of Food Hygiene, although more intensive than in the previous year, was restricted for a period by reason of only one District Public Health Inspector being available. Altogether 126 visits were made to food premises, including visits to ice cream premises, preserved food premises and hawkers' premises, and 37 informal notices were served on occupiers concerned to carry out necessary alterations, etc., under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. In addition, 111 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection. Other functions of the Rural District Council during 1956 included inspection of dairies, the inspection of vans and carts concerned with the distribution and sale of food, the registration of milk distributors, dairies, hawkers and their premises, and the licensing of dealers in special designated milks. The sampling of milk and ice cream had to be neglected because of the heavy pressure of work in other fields, and the staff shortage to which previous reference has been made.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Area) Order, 1956, came into operation on April 10th, and the specific area as far as the Rural District is concerned includes all parishes with the exception of Dutton, Hothersall and Ribchester. By virtue of the order bringing into operation sub-section (i) of Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, only specially designated milk may be retailed in the specific area of the Rural District, i.e., tuberculin-tested milk which is untreated and pasteurised and sterilised milks which are treated by heat.

The following list gives the number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year under review :

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers .....	91
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.) .....	28
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.) .....	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.) .....	22
Bakers and/or confectioners .....	33
Fried fish shops .....	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc. ....	37
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments .....	74
Others .....	33
Total .....	334

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council's (General Powers) Act, 1951, are as follows :

Type of business	Act	No.
Ice cream	Sect. 16, F. and D., 1955	105
Preserved food, etc.	ditto.	11
Hawkers' premises	Sect. 14, L.C.C. Act, 1951	17

One hundred and one of the ice cream premises are used for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.



Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, seven dairies are on the Council's register.

**CASES OF FOOD POISONING.** The incidence of food poisoning was slightly higher compared with the previous year. Eighteen notifications were received, comprising fifteen single cases and one outbreak of three cases. The outbreak affected one family. Notifications were received that the father and son of a family residing in the parish of Penwortham were suffering from food poisoning. The house was immediately visited and the patients interrogated. The main symptoms were severe vomiting and diarrhoea. It was discovered that the mother had also experienced similar symptoms. The apparent primary cause of infection was meat purchased from a butcher's shop outside the district, cooked on the same day as purchase, and two days later part of the meat was used to make soup. Faeces specimens were taken, together with a sample of the cooked meat, and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results showed that staphylococcus aureus had been isolated in two of the three faeces specimens and also in the cooked meat. The duration of illness was approximately 48 hours.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1956, together with the number and result of the inspections carried out :

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number inspected ...	23	49	4	356	208	...
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b>	...	..	...	2	1	...
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	18	32	...	5	11	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	78	65	...	2	6	...
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>	...	..	..	...	...	...
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ...	...	...	...	...	2	...
<b>Cysticercosis</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The unsound carcass meat, approximately 10½ cwts. in weight, was burnt at the slaughterhouses.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 2 cwts. 27 lbs. 12 ozs. Wherever possible the food was diverted for animal feeding. The protection of the public in regard to the food which they consume is an important duty of the District Public Health Inspector. Powers exist for food which is not in a sound and wholesome condition to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. It was not necessary to take such action during 1956 because the purveyors concerned voluntarily surrendered the food which was unfit for human consumption for a certificate issued by the District Public Health Inspector, which enables them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied the food.

### SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 204 samples was obtained, consisting of 138 samples of milk (including 9 Channel Islands Milks) and 66 samples other than milk, comprising the following :

1 Tomato-ketchup	1 Coffee
1 Fruit, canned	2 Lard
1 Treacle	1 Vegetables. canned
1 Orange crush	3 Dripping
2 Vinegar	3 Tea
2 White pepper	1 Icing sugar
1 Cream of tartar	4 Pickles
2 Butter	2 Baking Powder
2 Fish. canned	2 White pepper
1 Cooking fat	4 Meat paste
2 Boric ointment	1 Pork sausage
4 Lemon cheese	1 Epsom salts
6 Sweets	1 Chocolate flavouring
2 Ice cream	1 Ground almonds
1 Double cream	4 Whisky
1 Beef sausage	1 British Wine (Port)
2 Rum	1 Christmas pudding
1 Jam	

The samples were submitted for analysis and were reported to be genuine with the exception of those listed below :

Type	Analysis	Action
Formal milk	Deficient 3.3% fat. Low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified.
Boric ointment	Contained 9.8% Boric Acid. Consists of ointment of Boric Acid B.P. 1932.	Packers communicated with and age of stock ascertained.



Formal milk	Deficient 15% fat. Low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor interviewed and further samples taken.
Lemon cheese	Egg content 25%. Words "new laid eggs" should not precede "sugar" on label.	Packers communicated with.
Formal milk	Deficient 1.6% fat.	Vendor notified.
Formal milk	Deficient 5% fat. Low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified.

#### PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD & DRUGS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of samples</i>	<i>No. of adulterated samples</i>	<i>Percentage of adulteration</i>
1952	241	13	5.4
1953	268	15	5.5
1954	231	14	6.0
1955	210	12	5.7
1956	204	6	2.9

## Water Supplies

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are :

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests, and analyses are periodically made.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1956		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of popula- tion	No. of dwelling houses	Estima- ted No. of popula- tion	No. of dwelling houses	Estima- ted No. of popula- tion
Barton ...	...	3	362	1129	...	...	8	25
Broughton ...	...	9	173	554	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	..	10	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	17	54	...	...	45	144
Farington ...	...	28	1409	4310	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	39	3	233	743	...	...	73	224
Grimsargh ...	...	...	247	805	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	..	..	64	203	...	...	4	14
Hothersall ...	...	...	39	124	...	...	4	14
Hutton ...	...	4	447	1387	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	...	32	994	3095	...	...	4	14
Little Hoole ...	...	1	221	689	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	...	13	1193	3786	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	...	1	228	694	...	...	2	6
Penwortham ...	...	159	4170	12306	...	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	...	5	417	1323	...	...	37	118
Samlesbury ...	...	6	343	1094	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	...	1	432	4449	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	...	7	470	1699	...	...	46	147
TOTAL Whole District	39	272	11469	38482	...	...	284	898



Submitted below is a table showing water consumption per head of population per day over the past two years in the different supply areas.

Area of Supply			Sept. 1954	March 1955	Sept. 1955	March 1956	Sept. 1956
			<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>
Longton & Penwortham	...	...	35.17	32.66	36.72	42.48	43.44
Farington	...	...	25.26	35.85	49.16	44.53	43.54
Lea	...	...	28.05	32.60	32.54	34.92	37.45
Samlesbury	...	...	47.33	27.73	42.42	40.76	69.27
Ribchester & Hothersall	...	...	40.68	34.32	32.44	30.06	32.37

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 11,469.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 284.

Parts of the townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this, and 39 houses in Goosnargh were connected to the public water main during 1956.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 38,482 of a population of 39,380.

#### ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water is purchased in bulk from the Preston and Manchester Corporations, and supplied direct by the Fylde Water Board and Fulwood Urban District Council. Results of examinations of water supplies are received each year from these Undertakings, and they are consistently satisfactory. However, during the period under review, bacteriological samples of water were taken by the District Public Health Inspectors in the area of supply related to water taken in bulk from the Thirlmere Aqueduct, and some of the samples had a high coliform count, and were considered by the Analyst to be unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were taken following heavy rain. The matter was reported to the Council with a view to chlorination plant being installed, and the question was under consideration at the end of the year.

## Housing

Prior to 1952, the number of applicants added to the housing waiting list each year exceeded those applicants who were removed, but during subsequent years, as a result of frequent reviews of the list, this ominous trend was reversed. At the last review carried out during 1956, only 442 applicants remained on the list. During the year 19 families were re-housed in new Council houses and 52 in houses which became vacant. This latter figure represents annual voids of 4.9% of occupied Council houses.

The figure of 1,055 houses built by the Council since 1945 represents a substantial effort to relieve the housing shortage prevailing in the rural district, but, in addition, private enterprise has made a substantial contribution during the past five years, as the following figures will illustrate :

	No. of houses completed
1952 .....	50
1953 .....	61
1954 .....	132
1955 .....	235
1956 .....	243

The only disturbing factor has been the steady reduction in the number of houses under construction during the period under review. Nevertheless, the conclusion drawn from this evidence is that the housing problem of overcrowding in the rural district will shortly be solved, apart from isolated cases which may arise from time to time, and all that will remain will be the question of overspill from the Preston C.B. and the re-housing of displaced persons from slum property.

As regards slum clearance, little headway was made with the detailed survey of the property included in the provisional programme, due to the fact that for a period only one inspector was on duty. The Council has decided to build 58 houses for slum clearance purposes in the first phase, and construction will commence early in 1957. In consequence, a determined effort will have to be made to complete the detailed survey in the shortest possible time.

**THE SLUM CLEARANCE (COMPENSATION) ACT, 1956.** This Act was passed on 2nd August, 1956, and provides for the payment of compensation on the basis of full compulsory purchase value (instead of site value only) for unfit houses of certain owner-occupiers purchased under compulsory purchase orders. In order to qualify for the payment the house must have been bought by the owner after 31st August, 1939, and before 13th December, 1955 (or the date on which slum clearance proceedings were started if before 13th December, 1955), and must, subject to certain exceptions, have been occupied by the owner or a member of his family (as defined in the Act) on the latter date. Compensation is also payable on the same basis, less site value, and subject to the same conditions, to owner-occupiers of houses vacated under clearance, demolition or closing orders which are not purchased. These provisions operate until 1965. Provision is also made for compensation to be paid for businesses carried on in unfit houses which are purchased or vacated on or after 13th December, 1955, to empower the Minister of Housing and Local Government to vary the amounts payable in respect of well maintained houses, and for payments in respect of such houses to be extended to houses dealt with as individually unfit houses.



# HOUSING PROGRESS 1945 to 1956

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated :

(1)

Scheme	No. of houses
Penwortham and Farington .....	22
Woodplumpton .....	16
Lea .....	40
Woodville Street, Farington .....	12
School Street, Farington .....	10
Penwortham .....	52
Barton .....	40
Samlesbury .....	16
Grimsargh .....	22
Woodplumpton .....	8
Little Hoole .....	24
Much Hoole .....	24
Goosnargh .....	28
Longton .....	29
Ribchester .....	22
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract .....	80
New Longton .....	36
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract .....	38
Coote Lane, Farington—1st Contract .....	18
Airey Rural Houses .....	84
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract .....	36
Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury .....	30
Stanifield Lane, Farington .....	28
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract .....	50
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract .....	50
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract .....	80
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract .....	54
Coote Lane, Farington—2nd Contract .....	106
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,055</b>

(2)

	Completed	Houses Under Construction	Not yet Started
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	—	76	—

(3)

	No. of houses
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Phase .....	54
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract .....	58

## OVERSPILL

As part of the general Development Area for Penwortham, some 238 houses will be built in the initial phase. These houses will accommodate overspill population from the Preston C.B. 154 houses have already been completed, and 54 houses are contemplated for 1957. Long-term overspill commitments amount to a further 447 houses.

## OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospitals Board, and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1956, was as follows :

Constructed by	Houses		
	Completed	Under Construction	Not yet Started
Lancashire County Council .....	85	6	—
Ministry of Works .....	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association .....	250	—	—
Blackburn C.B. ....	2	—	—
Preston C.B. ....	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board .....	15	—	—
Private Builders .....	840	122	—
	<hr/> 1401	<hr/> 128	<hr/> —
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## SLUM CLEARANCE

Sixty-five houses have been demolishtd since 1945, 49 formally and 16 informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of 25 houses ; in twelve instances, that the premises would not again be used for human habitation, and in thirteen instances, the premises to be reconstructed. Twelve houses are officially scheduled for demolition, but action is deferred until the time is opportune to re-house the tenants.

During the year five demolition orders were made, and four displaced persons were re-housed by the Council. Fifty-eight houses are being built by the Council for re-housing displaced persons in the first phase under the Council's provisional slum clearance programme.

Forty-four houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and action was as follows :

### Repairs during the year

- (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts .....

46



(b) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit following formal action under the Public Health Acts :	
(i) By owners .....	4
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i) By owners .....	Nil
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Section 5. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and demolition orders revoked .....	Nil
Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act), 1954 :	
(1) No. of dwelling houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses .....	Nil
(b) Other houses .....	Nil
Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :	
(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 .....	Nil
(2) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) .....	Nil
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants.	
Number of schemes submitted :	
(a) By Local Authority to Ministry .....	Nil
(b) By private individuals to Local Authority .....	17
Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected .....	21
Work completed .....	14
Additional separate dwellings included in the completed schemes .....	Nil

## Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

Schemes have been prepared for several unsewered areas, and the present position with regard to them is outlined in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	231	300	923
Broughton ...	51	170	122	384
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	38
Dutton ...	...	...	62	198
Farington ...	1178	3505	231	805
Goosnargh ...	...	...	306	967
Grimsargh ...	203	665	44	140
Haighton ...	...	...	68	217
Hothersall ...	...	...	43	138
Hutton ...	...	...	447	1387
Lea ...	383	1180	615	1929
Little Hoole ...	...	...	221	689
Longton ...	...	...	1193	3786
Much Hoole ...	...	...	230	700
Penwortham ...	4149	12239	21	67
Ribchester ...	308	1000	146	441
Samlesbury ...	51	160	309	994
Whittingham ...	...	..	476	4581
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	516	1846
<b>TOTAL Whole District</b>	<b>6393</b>	<b>19150</b>	<b>5360</b>	<b>20230</b>



# Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1956, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character, and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, four Cotton Mills, two Paper Mills, two Iron Foundries, and a Ministry of Supply Tank Factory.

Defects found to exist related to Sanitary Conveniences. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of defects, ten written notices were served on the occupiers of the factories concerned, which resulted in the necessary work being carried out.

### Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

#### Part 1 of the Act

1—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	15	6	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	107	32	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	26	12	2	—
TOTAL ...	148	50	10	—

## 2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	8	8	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	10	10	—	3	—

### Part VIII—Sections 110 and 111

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c), 7 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)

J. WALKER,

August, 1957.

Medical Officer of Health.



# Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

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## To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the work of the Department during the year 1956.

The number of visits made by the District Public Health Inspectors exceeded the figure for the previous year by 194, despite the fact that for a period only one inspector was on duty. If the categorised visits included in the report are examined, it will be seen that visits related to infectious disease comprised almost one-third of the total. Work in connection with improvement grants, meat inspection and food premises was also considerable, but, in effect, this meant that other duties, such as routine milk sampling and the routine inspection of factories and shops, had, by necessity, to be neglected.

There are one or two other matters with which I would like to deal :

### (1) UNSEWERED AREAS

The progress made on the various schemes of sewerage included the commencement and completion of the work on the sewer crossings of the proposed Longton by-pass road related to the proposed sewerage of the parishes of Longton, Hutton and Little Hoole, and the holding of a Local Inquiry by the appropriate Ministry into the proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for these parishes, and also into the Council's application for the compulsory purchase of the land required for the sewage disposal works. Further progress included a continuance of the work on the joint valley sewer, and the submission of tenders to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with the Grimsargh scheme.

### (2) WATER SUPPLY

The Fylde Water Board had, by the end of the year, completed the Inglewhite section of the Goosnargh scheme, and 39 properties had been connected. This was far less than had been anticipated, and the District Public Health Inspector visited the premises still on private supply and took water samples for bacteriological examination, and at the same time, with regard to farms, the matter was reported to the local water supplies officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The scheme to boost the supply to the Drumacre Lane-Gill Lane area of the parish of Longton was almost complete at the year end, and as regards the Littleton area of Ribcheser, work on the necessary main extension will commence in 1957.

### (3) PRESTON (EXTENSION) ORDER, 1956

This order came into effect on April 1st, 1956, and as a result the old hamlet of Ingol, forming part of the parish of Lea, was transferred to the Preston C.B. Statistics relative to this transfer are as follows :

Area .....	388 acres
Estimated population .....	820
Number of dwellings .....	280
Rateable value (April 1st, 1956) .....	£6,947 (estimated)
Registered premises :	
Shops .....	3
Factories .....	2
Farms .....	4
Registered persons :	
Milk distributors .....	2
Producer-retailers of milk .....	4

#### (4) PEST CONTROL ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Council decided to undertake this work regardless of the continuance of the Agricultural Executive Committee's rat destruction service, and for the purpose two rodent operatives were engaged and a van purchased for their transport. Further details are given in that section of the report dealing with rodent control.

#### (5) THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1956.

This order came into operation on April 10th, 1956, and the specified area as far as the Rural District is concerned includes all parishes with the exception of Dutton, Hothersall and Ribchester. By virtue of the order bringing into operation sub-section (i) of Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, only specially designated milk may be retailed in the specified area of the Rural District, i.e., tuberculin-tested milk which is untreated, and pasteurised and sterilised milks which are treated by heat.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and the staff of the Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year :

#### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS

Inspection of dwelling houses .....	143
Insanitary drainage .....	110
Fouled watercourses .....	61
Middens .....	2
Dirty condition of premises .....	8
Other visits relating to nuisances .....	324
Infectious disease .....	640
Verminous premises and persons .....	2
National Assistance Act .....	6
Milk and Dairies .....	15
Food premises .....	116
Shops .....	32
Factories .....	50
Caravans .....	67
Schools .....	11
Hotels, Inns, etc. ....	1



Ice-cream premises .....	9
Hawkers .....	1
Rodent control .....	2
Drain testing .....	28
Smoke observations .....	6
Closet conversions .....	17
Pet Animals Act .....	1
Petroleum Act .....	12
Water supply .....	75
Slaughterhouse and Knacker's Yard .....	124
Anthrax .....	1
Swine Fever .....	10
Housing applications .....	44
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants .....	177
Other visits .....	178
	<hr/>
	2,273
	<hr/>

## NOTICES

Informal .....	127
Formal .....	11

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disinfection was carried out in the following cases of infectious disease :

Scarlet Fever .....	2
Tuberculosis Removals .....	1

To conclude, 640 visits were made relating to Infectious Disease, including visits in connection with cases and outbreaks of food poisoning and Sonne dysentery.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

At the end of 1956 the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses :

No. of Fresh Water Closets .....	10,196
No. of Waste Water Closets .....	216
No. of Pail Closets .....	1,191
No. of Privy Middens .....	150
No. of Movable Ashbins .....	10,854

The old bog closets and pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1956 :

No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.s .....	7
No. of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.s .....	2

## OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness .....	21
Defective Ceilings .....	13
Defective Closet Pails .....	1
Defective Closet Structures .....	4
Defective Doors .....	2
Defective Floors .....	6
Defective Gutters .....	20
Defective Paving .....	2
Defective Downspouts .....	4
Defective Roofs .....	17
Defective Pointing .....	2
Defective Walls .....	4
Defective Brickwork .....	6
Defective W.C.s .....	5
Defective Windows .....	9
Defective Woodwork .....	7
Defective Fire Ranges .....	1
Absence of Washing Facilities .....	1
Insanitary Drainage .....	110
Fouled Watercourses .....	61
Dirty Condition of Premises .....	8
Middens .....	2
Defective Sink Waste Pipes .....	2
Defective Sinks .....	2
Want of Ash Bins .....	1

## CLEANSING

During recent years the average weekly staff figure has been well below establishment, and in consequence it was decided by the Council to form a reserve team of one driver and two binmen. This resulted in the periods of collection being more or less maintained, and the number of complaints was diminished. Dislocation of the service following holiday periods was more speedily overcome, but the labour situation is far from satisfactory, and there is still great difficulty in obtaining the right type of men in sufficient numbers to retain a permanent staff position.

During the year 10,854 houses were cleared, and ten waggons were employed for the purpose. Two new diesel refuse collectors were brought into service during the year to replace the Lewin vehicle equipped with a refuse compressor unit. Disposal was by means of controlled tipping. Four tips were in operation, and full-time tipmen were employed.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from January 1st to December 31st, 1956 :



Vehicle	Type	Mileage	Petrol (galls.)	Oil (quarts)	Loads (number)	Estimated weight of refuse in tons	Miles per gallon
A.R.N.512	Lewin	... 2256 ...	810 ...	26 ...	450 ...	2687 ...	2.78
G.C.K.226	Fordson	... 5535 ...	787 ...	44 ...	623 ...	1305 ...	7.03
C.C.K.178	Ford	... 10201 ...	1405 ...	97 ...	519 ...	649 ...	7.26
C.R.N.663	Fordson	... 1576 ...	306 ...	52 ...	238 ...	494 ...	5.11
D.C.K.893	Fordson	... 7055 ...	1187 ...	96 ...	567 ...	1184 ...	5.94
E.R.N.987	Fordson	... 7903 ...	1026 ...	132 ...	661 ...	1376 ...	7.70
G.R.N.212 (diesel)	Fordson	... 9381 ...	618 ... diesel	39 ...	640 ...	1417 ...	15.17
J.C.K.73 (diesel)	Fordson	... 8454 ...	445 ... diesel	20 ...	553 ...	1149 ...	19.00
J.R.N.713 (diesel)	Fordson	... 1421 ...	135 ... diesel	— ...	324 ...	666 ...	10.51
J.R.N.816 (diesel)	Fordson	... 1687 ...	147 ... diesel	1 ...	326 ...	687 ...	11.40
TOTALS		... 55469 ...	6866 ...	507 ...	4901 ...	11614 ...	8.07

### SALVAGE

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1956 :

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper .....	343	5	2	—	2615	11	7
Newspaper .....	2	3	3	—	22	8	6
Rags .....	5	12	2	2	165	17	4
Carpets .....	5	9	—	9	32	14	5
String .....	—	10	2	8	3	3	5
Aluminium .....	—	8	1	27	42	17	2
Lead .....	—	2	—	7	8	17	1
Copper .....	—	1	—	20	12	3	4
Brass .....	—	1	1	24	13	15	1
Mixed Metal .....	1	10	2	18	34	12	3
Light Iron .....	12	19	1	—	57	13	4
Batteries .....	—	—	3	12	1	10	2
Tins .....	35	17	3	—	177	2	7
Heavy Cast Iron and Steel .....	—	17	—	—	4	5	0
Tins—financial assistance .....					34	19	3
Totals .....	409	—	—	15	£3,227	10	6

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

There are 148 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Fifty inspections were made, and ten notices served.

## BAKEHOUSES

There are 20 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places, and they are on the whole kept clean.

## CANAL BOATS

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTIONS

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Forty-two licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district. The premises are frequently visited, and where advice has been tendered the response has been immediate.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Lancashire River Board has jurisdiction in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are outfall works in six townships, viz: Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. Two hundred and seven new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year. No existing houses were connected.

## HOUSING ACTS, 1936 to 1954

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year :  
**Housing Act, 1936**

### Section 11—As a result of formal or informal action

#### 1. Houses demolished

36, Manor Lane, Penwortham.

Dale Hey Cottage, Ribchester.

1, 2 and 3, Sowerbutts Green Cottages, Samlesbury

#### 2. Undertakings accepted Nil

#### 3. Houses scheduled for demolition Nil.

### Housing Acts, 1936 and 1954

Houses demolished in Clearance Areas Nil.

### Housing Act, 1936—Section 9

#### Formal action

414 and 416, Leyland Road, Penwortham.

#### Informal action

18, Lark Avenue, Penwortham.

5 and 6, Bond Terrace, Liverpool Old Road, Little Hoole.



## SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1956 inclusive :

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.
			Form-ally.	Inform-ally.	Not to be used for human habitation.	Re-construction	Re-construction or conversion to other use	Not to be used for human habitation.	
Barton	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	9	3	...	1	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lea	...	...	6	2	1	1	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	3	3	3	...	...	2
Much Hoole	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	1	3
Penwortham	...	...	19	2	3	2	2	...	1
Ribchester	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	2
Samlesbury	...	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...
Whittingham...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	5	4	4	2	...	...	2
TOTALS	...	...	49	16	12	13	2	1	12

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953

Closing orders made under Section 10 Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Improvement grants were made under Section 20 for improvement work to be carried out at the under-mentioned properties :

Swillbrook Lodge Farm, Catforth.  
18, Rawstorne Road, Penwortham.  
Naptha Farm Bungalow, Whitestake.  
2, Marshall's Brow, Penwortham.  
Crown Lane Cottage, Bartle, Woodplumpton.  
Pair of cottages known as "The Laurels," Moss Lane, Catforth.  
9, Rawstorne Road, Penwortham.  
Bridge House Farm, Broughton.  
Little Westfield Farm, Goosnargh.  
Whinny Cottage Farm, Woodplumpton.  
35, School Street, Farington.  
2, 4, 6 and 8, Mayfield Terrace, Samlesbury.  
Kingsfold House, Pope Lane, Penwortham.  
Martin House, Grimsargh.  
Beesley House Farm, Haighton.  
Bell Fold Cottage, Barton.

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—1.  
No. of renewal licences granted during the year—102.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

CARAVANS

There were numerous instances of illicit parking of caravans on individual sites, and great difficulty was experienced in trying to clear them. The situation was aggravated by the influx of workmen employed by contractors engaged on the Preston and Longton by-pass roads, a number of whom brought caravans with them, and parked them on land belonging to local farmers. Altogether, 67 visits were made to caravan sites during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, including those duties under Section 38.

Two hundred and eighty-two shops were on the register at the end of the year, and 32 of them were inspected during 1956 under the delegated scheme, and all the shops so inspected were found to comply with the provisions of the Act, and reports were sent to the Lancashire County Council.



## RAG FLOCK ACTS

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufacture, used or sold.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural Area.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Clean Air Act, 1956, received the Royal assent during the year, to come into operation on the appointed day. At the end of the year, The Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, 1956, was received, which brought certain provisions of the Act into force on the 31st December, 1956, such as those related to "the installation of new furnaces," "height of chimneys," "offences in smoke control areas," "colliery spoilbanks," "smoke density meters," and "making byelaws." It is sufficient to say that this Act is a long-overdue measure of considerable social importance. The evils of air pollution by smoke, grit, sulphur compounds and other products of combustion have been well known for a very long time, but the legal power to deal with air pollution has been so inadequate as to render a substantial improvement impossible.

Six visits were made to investigate complaints of smoke nuisance during the year, and informal action resulted in the abatement of the nuisances.

## ANTHRAX

One case at Woodplumpton occurred during the year. The premises were visited and the burning of the carcase and disinfection under police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

## SWINE FEVER

Ten cases were notified during the year :

Barton .....	1 case
Goosnargh .....	4 cases
Haighton .....	2 cases
Much Hoole .....	1 case
Whittingham .....	1 case
Woodplumpton .....	1 case

In all cases the premises were disinfected, and the infected carcasses disposed of under police supervision.

In addition, notices were received placing the following premises under movement restrictions :

Tag Farm, Houghton.  
 Greenhouse Farm, Houghton.  
 Breakneck Farm, Houghton.  
 Ye Horns Inn, Goosnargh.  
 Back Lane Farm, Goosnargh.  
 Leighton House Farm, Inglewhite.  
 Stump Cross Farm, Goosnargh.  
 Greenfields Dairy, Goosnargh.  
 Longton's Farm, Whittingham.  
 29, Church Street, Ribchester.  
 Ashley Lane Farm, Whittingham.

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

No cases were notified during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk supply—action taken with regard to :

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

At the 31st December, 1956, there were 62 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from :

(a) dairies in the district .....	25
(b) premises outside the district .....	12
(c) shops in the district other than dairies .....	25

The number of dairies on the register was seven. Nine visits were made to dairies, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review :

**(i) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949**

Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	48
------------------------------	----

**(ii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949**

Pasteurised Milk .....	52
Sterilised Milk .....	33

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.



## TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

For reasons stated in the introduction to this report, very little time was devoted to routine milk sampling, and only one sample was taken in the district to be tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and no notifications were received from other local authorities that milk produced in the area had been found to contain tubercle bacilli.

### MILK SAMPLING

One sample was taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests, and the result was satisfactory.

One sample was taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and the result was negative.

No samples of heat treated milk were taken for the Phosphatase test.

### FOOD PREMISES

126 visits were made to food premises during the year, and 37 informal notices were served on occupiers concerned to carry out necessary alterations, etc., under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is 116. One hundred and five of these premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale of ice cream. This figure includes five new registrations during the year. One hundred and one retailers sell loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

### SAMPLING OF ICE CREAM

One sample of ice cream was taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, the sample was placed in the following grade :

Grade I ..... satisfactory

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

### HAWKERS

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural area, are registered under Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

No. of registered hawkers .....	29
No. of registered premises .....	17

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Description	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef .....	—	1	3	18	—
Chilled Beef .....	—	—	—	25	—
Corned Mutton .....	—	—	—	6	—
Luncheon Meat .....	—	—	—	4	—
Lime Juice Cordial .....	—	—	—	1	4
Tongue .....	—	—	—	1	—
Pilchards .....	—	—	—	—	8
Total .....	—	2	—	27	12

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff contained in the above schedule was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, the following carcases of animals were inspected :

Cattle (excluding cows) .....	23
Cows .....	49
Calves .....	4
Pigs .....	208
Sheep and Lambs .....	356

and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption :

38 beasts' livers for distomatosis ;  
 12 cows' livers for distomatosis ;  
 5 sheep livers for distomatosis ;  
 2 beasts' livers for cavernous angiomas ;  
 1 cow's liver for cavernous angiomas ;  
 1 beast's liver for abscess ;  
 1 pig's liver for cirrhosis ;  
 1 hindquarter of beef for injury ;  
 1 pig's carcase for pyaemia ;  
 2 sheep carcasses for emaciation ;  
 3 pigs' kidneys for nephritis ;  
 2 pigs' forelegs for abscess ;  
 2 pigs' shoulders for bruising and oedema ;  
 3 pigs' legs for bruising and oedema ;  
 1 pig's loin for bruising and oedema ;  
 3 pigs' heads for tuberculosis ;  
 1 pig's loin for tuberculosis.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned :  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cwts.



## PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area	Area for games	Area let off for Grazing	Area let off for Ploughing
Barton .....	5	5	—	—
Broughton .....	5	5	—	—
Church Wood, Penwortham .....	4½	4½	—	—
Farington .....	10½	5½	5	—
Goosnargh .....	4½	4½	—	—
Grimsargh .....	12	12	—	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham .....	16½	12	4½	—
Hutton .....	7	7	—	—
Lea .....	16½	4	12½	—
Little Hoole .....	4	4	—	—
Longton .....	6	6	—	—
Much Hoole .....	5	5	—	—
New Longton .....	9	9	—	—
Queensway, Penwortham .....	5	5	—	—
Penwortham Hall .....	18½	12½	6	—
Tardy Gate .....	5½	5½	—	—
Woodplumpton .....	6½	2½	4	—
Totals .....	141	109	32	—

Towards the end of 1955 the Council acquired 4.59 acres of land at the foot of Penwortham Hill by lease from the Preston Corporation for the purpose of forming an open space, and a pleasure walk through from Liverpool Road to the riverside. The frontages were fenced, the grass restored, trees trimmed, seats fixed, including one provided by the late Councillor R. J. Pendlebury with an inscribed plaque commemorating the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the Preston Rural District on the 13th April, 1955, and finally a dry path was formed through the site.

The work of the Department during the period under review also included, in addition to a great deal of maintenance work, the mowing of grass verges on the Council's Housing Estates.

## RODENT REPORT

### STAFF

During the year three rodent operatives were employed.

### SEWERS

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was test baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage system were baited with sausage rusk. No infestation was found, and in consequence a certificate of exemption was received valid until the following year.

## SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Penwortham, Grimsargh, Lea, Ribchester and Farington were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level

## TIPS

The Council's refuse tips at Barton, Longton, Ribchester and Penwortham were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

## BAIT

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

## POISONS

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, and Warfarin.

In conclusion, it was reported last year that the future of the Agricultural Executive Committee's rat destruction service was under review, but during 1956, and contrary to belief, the service continued to function. Nevertheless, the Council decided to operate their own control over agricultural land as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and for the purpose two rodent operatives and a van were employed. It is the intention to survey all agricultural land at least twice per year, and the tabular report on the following page discloses the substantial number of visits made in this respect, even though the survey only commenced in the latter half of the year under review.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



# PREMISES AND INFESTATION.

Type of Property	(I) Total No. of Properties	(II) No. of Properties inspected during 1956 as a result of :			(III) No. of Properties found to be infested with rats (under (II) )		(IV) No. of Prop- erties under (II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	(V) No. of infes- ted Properties under (III) & (IV) treated by L.A.	(VI) No. of notices served under Section 4 for :	
		NOTIFI- CATION	SURVEY	OTHER- WISE	MAJOR	MINOR			TREATMENT	STRUCTURAL WORKS, ie. PROOFING
Local Authority ...	7	...	7	...	4	3	...	7	...	...
Dwelling Houses ...	10700	39	1382	...	...	47	10	26	...	...
Agricultural ...	1050	326	913	...	3	190	10	24	...	..
All other (including Business & Industrial.	450	7	146	...	4	19	6	19	...	...
Totals ...	12207	372	2448	...	11	259	26	76	...	...

No of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following  
 issue of notice under Section 4 ..... None  
 Legal Proceedings ..... None  
 No. of "block" control schemes carried out ..... None

Eleven of the major type were reduced to minor and re-treatment is to be  
 made. Two hundred and fifty-nine of the minor type were cleared, and no post  
 baits were taken. (See Table—Column III.)

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received  
 from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all  
 Parishes.

## Report of Building Surveyor.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1956.

The table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected :

Parish	Dwelling houses erected
Barton ...	3
Broughton	9
Farington	28
Goosnargh	3
Hutton...	4
Lea ...	32
Little Hoole	1
Longton	13
Much Hoole	1
Penwortham	159
Ribchester	5
Samlesbury	6
Whittingham	1
Woodplumpton	7
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>272</b>

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise :

Inspection of Site .....	209
Inspection of Foundations .....	373
Inspection of Drainage .....	561
Inspection on Completion .....	436

In addition, 1,566 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, and there were 607 miscellaneous visits.



## TOWN PLANNING

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers, 586 applications to develop were received. Of these, 258 applications were classified as permitted development under Town Planning.

The Council considered these applications with the following results :

Permission granted	531
Refused	47
Deferred	1
Withdrawn	7

H. COLLIER,

Building Surveyor.

## Report on Water Supply

**To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council**

Gentlemen.

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1956.

The number of connections shows a decrease, and the number of extensions an increase, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures :

Connections .....	1955	.....	344
Connections .....	1956	.....	250
Extensions of mains .....	1955	.....	2388 yds.
Extensions of Mains .....	1956	.....	2975 yds.

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year :

Parish	Houses	Mill	Troughs	Standpipes
Farington .....	28	—	—	—
Hutton .....	4	—	—	—
Lea .....	28	—	—	—
Little Hoole .....	1	—	—	—
Longton .....	13	—	—	—
Much Hoole .....	1	—	1	1
Penwortham .....	159	—	1	1
Ribchester .....	5	—	—	—
Samlesbury .....	6	1	—	—
Total .....	245	1	2	2



Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows :

Parish	2"	3"	4"	6"
		<i>Yds.</i>		
Hutton ... ..	68	...	...	...
Lea ... ..	...	299	...	.
Longton ... ..	180	88	1145	...
Penwortham ... ..	296	663	42	...
Ribchester ... ..	...	14	...	...
Samlesbury ... ..	...	180	...	...
Totals ... ..	544	1244	1187	...

In addition, routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief idea of the work entailed :

No. of taps re-washeded .....	228
No. of Service Pipes repaired .....	27
No. of Mains repaired .....	54
No. of Ball Hydrants repaired .....	3
No. of new Hydrants installed .....	6
No. of Meters changed .....	30
No. of Ferrules cleaned .....	17
Length of Mains scraped .....	250 yds.
No. of Visits to Consumers' Premises .....	157

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the Undertaking. In addition, test surveys for bursts were carried out in the Parishes of Farington, Lea, Penwortham, Ribchester and Samlesbury.

Numerous incidental jobs were carried out on the Council's Housing Estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.













